

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Members will not need reminding that the most important role of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, which is a nationwide statutory one, is to oversee the provision of sound and accurate teaching in RE. The late Michael Edwards, who for a great many years was instrumental in steering SACRE in Havering, maintained that the teaching of RE was to give pupils an insight into what members of each faith group believed and how putting their beliefs into practice affected their lives.

Good RE teaching is not just about facts and information - though in our country's multi-faith society of today it will help to dispel some of the myths surrounding the beliefs of some of the faith groups - but, SACRE believes, is also instrumental in setting both moral and theological parameters for today's children, soon to be tomorrow's citizens. Teaching pupils respect for all faiths and providing them with information on what members of the different religions have contributed towards our somewhat 'mongrel' nation should also help to combat faith-related bullying.

You will see from the Annual Report which you have before you that Havering's SACRE worked hard to build on those principles. The Agreed Syllabus, 'Pathways', in place since the end of 2007, has proved a most effective tool in both Primary and Secondary schools across the borough – and beyond as other education providers have requested it for their schools.

In the current economic climate, SACRE members are heartened to learn that HIAS is continuing to set aside sufficient funds during this academic year for training and supporting SACRE's work. SACRE's termly meetings continue to have lively discussions on the topics brought before it and its record of attendance confirms that the busy individuals who make up its numbers feel passionately enough about its value to turn up and contribute to its work.

That does not mean that there are no concerns. The recent move towards allowing schools to become academies along with the new Baccalaureate and changes to the status of RE in education does raise concerns about the future of RE and I have to report that these are issues which will take some time to work out, but Havering's SACRE is bracing itself to address these changes and Council can rest assured that it is well equipped to meet and successfully surmount those challenges.

On a happier note; I am pleased to report that SACRE's practice of holding its summer meeting in either a school or a place of worship continues. During 2010, the visit was to the Mawney School and this year it has recently been to St Mary's Church and Primary School in Hornchurch, combining both place of worship and school where - those Members who attended will attest - the quality of the production put on by the children (a re-run of their Easter assembly) was extremely high and most moving, the guided tour of the church, well informed and enlightening and all was rounded off by the generous hospitality in the Presbytery. These visits not only provide members with an enjoyable change of venue, but contribute positively to its understanding of how education and faith is being expressed today in Havering – and with a possible review of the Agreed Syllabus pending, this ensures that any changes remain relevant and firmly grounded in reality.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to commend SACRE's Annual Report to the Council.



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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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Chair's Foreword

I am delighted to present the annual report for 2010.

This has been another inspiring year. SACRE continues to be a very active organisation and we were pleased to welcome new members, including new Council members, teacher groups and representatives from faith groups to our recent autumn term meeting, during which - in addition to the usual reports and discussions - members watched a series of four short films made by NATRE (the National Association of Teachers of RE) which were received with interest and enthusiasm by all.

The number of students following Religious Studies examination courses continues to increase and more local authorities have requested copies of our Agreed Syllabus which is still being successfully put into practice by local schools. One of the key people in helping to write and put together the Agreed Syllabus was Janet Dyson, consultant to SACRE, who moved on from Havering this autumn. Both SACRE and the borough have benefited from her vast knowledge and expertise and she will be greatly missed. We offer Janet our sincere thanks for all the help she has given us, together with our good wishes for whatever she goes on to do in the future. Janet set high standards and it is hoped that her successor will continue to provide the excellent support SACRE has enjoyed for so long. In this respect, the local authority anticipates making a new appointment very soon.



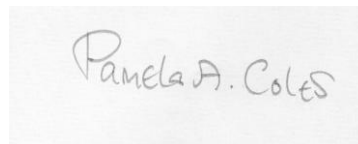
A visit to a Synagogue by a group of Havering pupils

In the light of world affairs we continue to value the importance of learning more about each other by maintaining our practice of holding our Summer Term meeting at either a place of worship or in one of the Borough's schools. This year we met at the Mawney

School, which was the recipient of the first Michael Edwards' Award. The Award for 2010 was given to St. Alban's RC Primary School, Elm Park, for pupils' charity work in each year group, making and selling articles, which linked with The Parable of the Talents.

Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson and myself attended a NASACRE Conference at Westminster Central Hall during the spring. Several interesting presentations were given and members were presented with a booklet and video entitled 'RE Quest', which was later made available to schools across the borough.

In short, it has been a busy and successful year and I have pleasure in commending the report.

A photograph of a white card with the name 'Pamela A. Coles' written in cursive in black ink.

(Chair of SACRE)



Pupils at Redden Court School set out a 'puja' table to illustrate what they had learned about Hinduism. Hindu worshippers offer food, which might include fruit, sweets or rice, together with flowers, at the shrine, for the gods to bless. This blessed food is called 'prashad' and is later eaten by the worshippers.

1. Religious Education (RE)

1.1. Standards in Religious Education

Examination results at GCSE are monitored as part of the Borough's overall monitoring of standards. SACRE receives an analysis of examination results in Religious Studies (RS) at GCSE at its Autumn Term meeting, which is before national figures are published (hence comparisons below between Havering 2010 results and 2009 National averages).

The results for 2010 paint a positive and improving picture for Havering.

GCSE courses

In 2010, as in previous years, all 18 secondary schools in Havering entered students for a GCSE Religious Studies examination, with 15 schools entering some students for the full GCSE course, as well as some for the short course, and 3 schools only entering students for the short GCSE course. A total of 2,342 Havering students followed either a full or a short GCSE course (up from 2,310 in 2009). The number of entries for a full GCSE course increased significantly to 1038 (from 935 in 2009), while 1,304 students were entered for the short GCSE course.

The number of entries varies considerably between the schools. Five schools entered the vast majority of their cohorts for the full course GCSE, with eight schools entering mostly full cohorts for the short course. The other five schools entered only selected numbers for either one or other of the courses.

GCSE full course

The proportion of students achieving an A*- C grade in the full GCSE increased to 80%, from 73.7% in 2009. (This compares to a national average A*- C pass rate of 70.8% in 2009).

99.5% of Havering's students who entered the full course GCSE in 2010 achieved an A*- G grade (compared to a national average of 98.1% in 2009).

GCSE short course

In the short course GCSE, a record 62.3% of students achieved A*-C grades (up from 50.3% in 2009), with 97.9% achieving an A*- G grade. National average figures for the short course GCSE were not available for comparison.

1.2. Agreed Syllabus

Schools implemented the Havering Agreed Syllabus 'Pathways', (published in November 2007) in September 2008. The vast majority of Primary schools are using the new schemes of work as the basis for delivering the Agreed Syllabus. These were updated and shared with

schools in September 2010. Most Secondary schools have developed their own schemes of work.

1.3. Teacher Training

Advice is provided to Primary schools through the Havering Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS) and there are regular, well-attended meetings for Primary RE co-ordinators. In 2009/2010 this consisted of:

- How digital video can be used to support RE storytelling
- How control technology can be used to develop pupils' RE knowledge and understanding
- Use of the Interactive Whiteboard to motivate and engage all pupils
- More effective use of the Visualiser to share artefacts and encourage peer assessment
- Updated list of websites to enhance teaching and learning in RE

The subject of the Summer Term session was updating the Schemes of Work and adding cross-curricular links. All RE co-ordinators were able to contribute their comments via fax back or email template. The updated Schemes of Work were shared with all schools and the independent sector through CDs in September 2010

Attendance at the RE Co-ordinators conferences remains high, varying between 25 and 35 schools represented. Where RE co-ordinators have not been able to attend, all materials were electronically forwarded to those schools along with explanatory letters. This included Independent and Special schools.

The secondary RE teachers' network has met once during the year, under the leadership of a Head of RE. Advice and support is available to all secondary schools from a specialist consultant and Lead Teacher in the borough. SACRE and HIAS are in the process of appointing a new specialist secondary consultant.

1.4. Complaints concerning RE

No formal complaints were made about religious education under the local statutory complaints procedure during 2010.

2. Collective Worship

2.1. Monitoring

Collective worship is a major focus for the work of SACRE in 2010/2011 pending the review of Circular 1/94. New guidance will be produced for schools as soon as possible.

2.2. Training

There has been no training on collective worship during the year.

2.3. Determinations

There were no applications for determinations (to alter the character of collective worship for all or some pupils in a particular school) during 2010.

2.4. Complaints concerning collective worship

No formal complaints were made about collective worship under the local statutory complaints procedure during 2010.

3. Links with other agencies

3.1. National

Havering SACRE belongs to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). Members attend conferences and other events and report to full SACRE meetings.

3.2. Local

SACRE has links with a range of faith and secular groups in the borough. The practice of holding some SACRE meetings in schools and different places of worship continues.

4. SACRE arrangements

4.1. Meetings

SACRE holds regular meetings during the year. The meetings are well attended with good representation from the faith groups and the local Humanist Association. There is usually one meeting each term. SACRE sets its own agenda and commissions reports and updates from the Local Authority Adviser and Consultant. SACRE has met three times during 2009. In the spring and autumn terms the meeting was held at the Town Hall. The Summer Term meeting was held at the Mawney School, which was the first school given the Michael Edwards' Award, for their provision of a room for Prayer and Reflection, for pupils of all faiths to use.

SACRE has received regular reports on local and national developments in RE. Topics discussed include: self-evaluation processes and the OfSTED report on RE and its importance in supporting community cohesion.

4.2. Budget

SACRE has a small annual budget to cover the cost of its work which is administered by the Education Service.

4.3. Professional and administrative support

SACRE has the services of a Committee Officer from Committee Administration at each of its meetings, both to minute the meeting and to

give procedural advice. The RE Consultant and the Primary Adviser attend SACRE meetings to report on work with schools, to offer advice and to assist SACRE in carrying out its role.

4.4. Monitoring

SACRE continues to monitor standards and quality in RE, the quality of provision for collective worship and for pupils' spiritual development from any information included in the most recent OfSTED reports for primary, secondary and special schools. In addition, examination results at GCSE and A/S and A level are monitored as part of the Borough's overall monitoring and evaluation of standards.

5. The Michael Edwards Award

This annual award is presented in commemoration of the life and work of Michael Edwards, Adviser/Inspector for Religious Education in Havering, who died in 2004.

The award is made to schools which demonstrate good practice in multi-faith RE. The award alternates between primary and secondary schools and this year was open to Primary schools. The successful school was St. Alban's RC Primary School and was awarded for its pupils' excellent fundraising for charity, which was themed with the Parable of the Talents.

MEMBERS OF SACRE

The following is a list of SACRE members and officers in attendance for the period covered by this report.

Name	Group	Representing	Joined	Left
Mrs Lin Milton	A	New Church Movement	17/11/2005	06/10/2010
VACANT	A	New Church Movement		
Mr Kevin Walsh	A	Roman Catholic	22/02/2007	
Revd. Lee Sunderland	A	Jewish Community	05/03/2009	
Mrs Pamela Coles	A	Methodist	Pre 2004	
VACANT	A	Baptist		
Mr Sansar Narwal	A	Sikh Community	Pre 2004	
VACANT	A	Pentecostal Churches		
Miss Joan Watson	A	Religious Society of Friends	26/11/2009	
Mr Kamal Siddiqui	A	Muslim Community	05/03/2008	
Mr M Saleem	A	Muslim Community	21/10/2010	
Mr Om Dhir	A	Hindu Community	06/06/2007	
VACANT	A	Salvation Army		
Mrs Brenda Mole	A	United Reformed Church	10/11/2004	
Dr John Lester	A	Baha'i Faith	10/11/2004	
Mrs Christine Seymour	A	Havering and District Humanist Society	26/11/2009	
VACANT	B	Church of England		
Mrs Susan Freeman	B	Church of England	05/03/2009	
Mrs Alison Seaman	B	Church of England	07/11/2007	
Mrs Val Morris	B	Church of England	05/03/2003	15/03/2010
VACANT	B	Church of England		
Mrs Anne Masters	C	ATL	28/01/2009	
Mr Nick Hills	C	NUT - Seniors	26/11/2009	
Ms Linda Munday	C	NUT - Primary	11/01/2010	
Mr Chris Pearson	C	NASUWT	30/06/2004	
Mr Keith Shurlock	C	ASCL	05/03/2009	
VACANT	C	PAT		
Cllr Geoff Starns	D	Local Authority	30/06/2004	09/06/2010
Cllr Jeffrey Tucker	D	Local Authority	07/06/2007	09/06/2010
Cllr Wendy Brice-Thompson	D	Local Authority	07/06/2007	09/06/2010
Cllr Paul Rochford	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Paul McGeary	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Linda Trew	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Damian White	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Gillian Ford	D	Local Authority	11/07/2004	
Cllr Wendy Brice-Thompson	Obs*	Local Authority	07/06/2010	

*Obs = Observer